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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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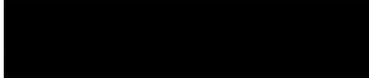
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE: 

Office: Miami

Date: AUG 20 2002

IN RE: Applicant: 

APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under Section 320 of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1431

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant was born on January 1, 1983, in Syria. The applicant's father, [REDACTED] was born in Syria in 1957 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen on September 19, 2000. The applicant's mother, [REDACTED] was born in Syria in April 1961 and never had a claim to United States citizenship. The applicant's parents married each other on October 29, 1981. The applicant was lawfully admitted for permanent residence on May 19, 1995. The applicant is seeking a certificate of citizenship under section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1431.

The district director reviewed the record and concluded that the applicant was over the age of 18 and ineligible for the benefit sought.

On appeal, the applicant states that it is obvious that the Service can manipulate the amount of time to process the application. The applicant asserts that he filed the application prior to his 18th birthday.

Sections 320 and 322 of the Act were amended by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA), and took effect on February 27, 2001. The CCA benefits all persons who have not yet reached their 18th birthdays as of February 27, 2001. The applicant was 18 years, 1 month and 26 days old on February 27, 2001. Therefore, he is not eligible for the benefits of the CCA.

Former section 320 of the Act prior to its amendment provided that:

(a) A child born outside of the United States, one of whose parents at the time of the child's birth was an alien and the other of whose parents then was and never thereafter ceased to be a citizen of the United States, shall, if such parent is naturalized, become a citizen of the United States, when

(1) such naturalization takes place while such child is under the age of 18 years; and

(2) such child is residing in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence at the time of naturalization or thereafter and begins to reside permanently in the United States while under the age of 18 years.

The applicant does not qualify for consideration under former section 320 of the Act because one of his parent's was not a U.S. citizen at the time of his birth.

Section 322 of the Act prior to its amendment on February 27, 2001, provided, in part, that:

(a) A parent who is a citizen of the United States may apply to the Attorney General for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of a child born outside the United States. The Attorney General shall issue such a certificate of citizenship upon proof to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the following conditions have been fulfilled:

(1) At least one parent is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization.

(2) The child is physically present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission.

(3) The child is under the age of 18 years and in the legal custody of the citizen parent.

(4)...

(5) If the citizen parent has not been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years--

(A) the child is residing permanently in the United States with the citizen parent, pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence, or

(B) a citizen parent of the citizen parent has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years.

(b) Upon approval of the application (which may be filed from abroad) and, except as provided in the last sentence of section 337(a), upon taking and subscribing before an officer of the Service within the United States to the oath of allegiance required by this Act of an applicant for naturalization, the child shall become a citizen of the United States and shall be furnished by the Attorney General with a certificate of citizenship.

8 C.F.R. 322.2(a) provides that to be eligible for "expeditious naturalization" under section 322 of the Act, a child on whose behalf an application for naturalization has been filed by a parent who is, at the time of filing, a citizen of the United States, must:

(1) Be unmarried and under 18 years of age, both at the time of application and at the time of admission to citizenship;

(2) Reside permanently in the United States, in the physical and legal custody of the applying citizen parent, pursuant to a lawful admission;

(3) Comply with other requirements for naturalization as provided in the Act....

The applicant was 17 years and 8 months old when his father naturalized and over 18 years of age when the application was filed on January 25, 2001. The term "filed" when applied to Service petitions and applications means the day when the petition or application is received at the Service office with all necessary documentation and the appropriate fee.

8 C.F.R. 341.2(c) provides that the burden of proof shall be on the claimant to establish the claimed citizenship by a preponderance of the evidence. Therefore, the appeal will be dismissed.

This decision is without prejudice to the applicant's seeking U.S. citizenship through normal naturalization procedures by filing an Application for Naturalization on Form N-400 with a Service office having jurisdiction over his place of residence.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.